

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 04170 040531Z

11  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W  
----- 116144

R 040500Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6121  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4170

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SN, MY  
SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN JOURNALIST'S CONFESSION RECEIVES FRONT PAGE  
COVERAGE

REFS: A. SINGAPORE 3125  
B. KUALA LUMPUR 5030

1. CONFESSIONS OF MALAYSIAN JOURNALIST SAMAD ISMAIL  
REPORTED REF B RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN THE  
SINGAPORE STRAITS TIMES ON SEPTEMBER 2 AND SEPTEMBER  
3. THE CONFESSION INITIATED A FLURY OF SPECULATION IN  
SINGAPORE REGARDING SAMAD'S PAST ACTIVITIES AND THE  
GOS ROLE IN SAMAD'S ARREST. THE SEPTEMBER 3 ARTICLE  
SUGGESTS THAT SAMAD, WHO USED THE ALIAS ZAINAL IN  
HIS COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, MAY HAVE BEEN THE SAME  
PERSON AS A COMMUNIST CADRE CALLED LANIAZ WHO WAS  
NAMED BY PM LEE KUAN YEW IN 1961 IN A SERIES OF 12  
"NOW CELEBRATED BROADCASTS" WHEN HE DESCRIBED HOW  
THE PAP CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THEIR FIRST COMMUNIST.

2. THE SPECULATION THAT SAMAD MAY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT  
WITH LEE AND THE PAP DURING THE 1950'S WAS PROMPTED  
BY THE FACT THAT SAMAD'S ALIAS, ZANIAL, WHEN SPELLED  
BACKWARDS IS LANIAZ. IN LATE SPETEMBER AND EARLY  
OCTOBER 1961 LEE MADE A SERIES OF 12 RADIO BROADCASTS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 04170 040531Z

DESCRIBING THE EMERGENCE OF THE PAP AS THE PREDOMINANT

PARTY IN SINGAPORE. THE THIRD OF THESE BROADCASTS WAS ENTITLED "HOW THE COMMUNISTS WORK". IN THIS BROADCAST HE DISCUSSED A COMMUNIST CADRE "LANIAZ" WHO IN THE EARLY 1950'S JOINED A GROUP OF ENGLISH-EDUCATED ANTI COLONIALISTS WHO WERE STRUGGLING FOR INDEPENDENCE. LANIAZ, ACCORDING TO LEE'S BROADCAST, STARTED OUT AS AN ANTI COLONIALIST WHO DRIFTED TOWARDS THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT WHILE THE OTHER ANTI COLONIALISTS FORMED THE MOVEMENT WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME THE PAP. SAMAD WAS IN FACT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PAP AND COULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME PERSON LEE CALLED LANIAZ.

3. ALSO AS AN APPARENT RESULT OF SAMAD'S CONFESSION, DURING THE SEPTEMBER 3 PARLIAMENT SESSION M.P. M. GOVINDISAMY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION WHETHER THE ARREST OF SAMAD WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE ARRESTS OF SINGAPORE JOURNALISTS HUSSEIN JAHIDIN AND AZMI MAHMUD BY SINGAPORE AUTHORITIES. THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION CHUA RESPONDED TO GOVINDISAMY'S QUERY BY SAYING THAT IN DECEMBER 1975 THE MALAYSIAN SPECIAL BRANCH ASKED THE GOS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SAMAD'S POSSIBLE COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. THE GOS RESPONDED IN EARLY 1976 BY PROVIDING CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM ISD FILES. FOLLOWING THE JUNE ARRESTS OF JOURNALISTS HUSSEIN JAHIDIN AND AZMI MAHMUD, THE GOS PROVIDED THE RESULTS OF THEIR INTERROGATION TO THE MALAYSIAN SPECIAL BRANCH. CHUA OBSERVED THAT WHILE THE MINISTRY COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE GOM ARREST OF SAMAD WAS IN FACT A DIRECT RESULT OF THE SINGAPORE ARRESTS, THE GOS REGULARLY EXCHANGES INFORMATION WITH THE GOM ON COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, AND INFORMATION ON SAMAD WAS IN FACT PROVIDED TO THE GOM.  
HOLDRIDGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, ARRESTS, COMMUNISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976SINGAP04170  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760336-0545  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760990/aaaaczav.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 SINGAPORE 3125, 76 KUALA LUMPUR 5030  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MALAYSIAN JOURNALIST'S CONFESSION RECEIVES FRONT PAGE COVERAGE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, SN, MY, (SAMAD ISMAIL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006